

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-7 and 28-30 are currently being canceled.

Claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 19, 20 and 31-42 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 8-27 and 31-46 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 8-27 and 31-46. Due to the amendments made to claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 19, 20 and 31-42 to place each of those claims in independent form, presently pending claims 8-27 and 31-46 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,784,630 to Saito et al.; claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,293,500 to Ishida et al.; and claims 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and (b) as being anticipated by Ishida. Due to the cancellation of claims 1-7 and 28-30, these rejections are now moot.

Conclusion:

Since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action that have not been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 23, 2004

By Phillip J. Articola

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5300
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819